

# REPORT

**DATE:** April 11, 2008

**TO:** Transportation and Communications Committee

**FROM:** Naresh Amatya, Acting Manager, Transportation Planning  
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**SUBJECT:** 2008 Regional Transportation Plan

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:

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### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Recommend that the Regional Council adopt the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) with the proposed revisions per Action Item 5.1 and approve consistency amendment to the 2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to align it with adopted RTP.

### BACKGROUND:

The Draft 2008 RTP was released by TCC for public review and comments on December 6, 2007. The public comment period was officially closed on February 19, 2008. SCAG received approximately 150 individual letters and comments, which can be further broken down to over four hundred distinct comments on all aspects of the RTP. Majority of the comments focused on Growth Forecast/Land Use, Goods Movement, Highway and Arterials, High Speed Rail Transport, Transit, Aviation and Transportation Finance. Over eighty percent of the project specific comments focused on six major projects, namely, Orangeline, High Speed Rail Transport System, Freight Rail Strategy, Dedicated Clean Technology Truck Corridors, I-710 Corridor and CETAP Corridors. Most of these comments were either supportive or opposed to a specific project.

### Revisions to projects

In releasing the Draft 2008 RTP for public review and comments, TCC approved including four major projects, namely, Orangeline Maglev High Speed Rail, CETAP Corridors, High Desert Corridor and I-710 Tunnel in the financially constrained plan, contingent upon adequate documentation that these projects meet the fiscal constraint requirements prior to the final adoption of the RTP. The proposed actions under Action Item No. 5.1 of this agenda have been brought forth to the TCC today consistent with this direction provided by TCC. Staff has carefully evaluated each of the actions proposed under Item 5.1. Based on staff analysis, while these actions would require minor technical adjustments to the Finance Plan of the 2008 RTP, they do not jeopardize the integrity of the plan itself, including fiscal constraint as well as transportation conformity findings.

### Revisions to Growth Forecast/Land use Assumptions

In addition to the proposed revisions to the Draft 2008 RTP pursuant to actions taken under Item 5.1, underlying growth assumptions for the plan have been revised. As mentioned earlier, significant comments were received on the proposed growth forecast/land use element presented in the Draft 2008 RTP. Several

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subregional partners and cities commented in support of incorporation of the Draft Baseline Growth Forecast in the Final 2008 RTP, citing a higher level of consistency between the Baseline Growth Forecast and local general plans. As a result, at its March 6, 2008, meeting, the Community, Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD) voted to approve the Baseline Growth Forecast for the 2008 RTP with a statement of advisory land use policies and strategies. The 2008 RTP that will be recommended for adoption by the Regional Council on May 8, 2008, will incorporate the Baseline Growth Forecast. Therefore, technical analyses used in finalizing the 2008 RTP are based on the Baseline Growth Forecast.

## Re-circulation of Transportation Conformity Report

After the release of the Draft Conformity Report, SCAG was informed that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) review of the South Coast ozone and PM2.5 emission budgets submitted by the California Air Resources Board (ARB) raised concerns such that the ARB was required to revise and resubmit the emission budgets to EPA. This requirement dictated that SCAG make appropriate revisions to the conformity analysis to reflect the new emission budgets and release the Draft Conformity Report for an additional 30-day public review period ending April 28, 2008. Both the original and revised draft conformity reports demonstrate a positive conformity finding for the 2008 RTP.

## Consistency Amendment to the 2006 RTIP


The Statewide Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning; Final Rule §450.324(g) stipulates that "each project or project phase included in the TIP shall be consistent with the approved metropolitan transportation plan". Upon SCAG's Regional Council adoption of the 2008 RTP, the 2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program must comply with these regulations. The changes between the 2006 RTIP and the 2008 RTP were released for public review along with the Draft 2008 RTP and the updated 2008 RTP conformity report. The majority of the changes are modeling network changes (due to changes in project completion dates) and there are a few changes that are due to project description changes. The FHWA will take simultaneous action on the conformity determination of the 2006 RTIP along with the 2008 RTP.

The proposed Recommended Action, as described above, is based upon the information presented in this staff report and the actions taken under Item 5.1.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

None.


Reviewed by:

  
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Division Manager

Reviewed by:

  
Acting, \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Director

Reviewed by:

 FOR WAYNE MOORE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Financial Officer